



# Mamitua Saber Research Center

In 1961, at its first meeting to establish the University, the Board of Regents created the Institute of Research for Filipino Culture (IFRC). The office was one of the first four priority University departments (including the colleges of Liberal Arts, Social and Political Science and Education), which opened in June 1962, to implement the University Charter (Republic Act 1893). Section 2 of said Law says that the University

...shall primarily give professional training besides providing advanced instruction in literature, philosophy, the sciences and arts. More emphasis, however, shall be given in the teaching of Filipino Culture, Art, Sciences, Philosophy and Literature. *Researches on these lines shall be undertaken by the University.*

In 1967, the IFRC's name was changed to the University Research Center (URC) as its functions expanded to include other investigations in the broad fields of the humanities and the natural and physical sciences. URC's objectives and functions were:

1. To formulate policies and adopt measures for the encouragement of research at the University;
2. To receive and administer grants, donations, gifts and endowments given to and through the University for the promotion of research;
3. To award funds for research and secure assistance for research;
4. To administer research funds in accordance with accounting rules and regulation;
5. To coordinate research activities at the University here and abroad;
6. To publish complete research projects and other materials of scientific and cultural interest related to the functions of the Center;
7. To undertake its own research projects and other activities that would promote research; and

8. To serve as a repository for library and archival materials from research projects conducted on campus and elsewhere.

In 1989, most of these functions (except Nos. 6-8) were removed from URC and elevated to the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Extension (OVCRE), which was created in line with the concept of MSU as a University System. The OVCRE became charged with approving for funding and supervising all research and extension proposals and activities emanating from the Marawi campus. For its part, the URC became the OVCRE's facilitator and monitoring arm for research undertakings on campus. Its former Dean of Research, now designated as Director of Research, became co-chairman with the Vice Chancellor for Research and Extension in the deliberation and approval of research proposals submitted to the OVCRE.

Without having changed its name as a "research center," however, the URC under the OVCRE continued to operate with its four working divisions: Publication, which was charged with preparing Center and also some OVCRE publications; Folklore, which undertook collection and translation of Mindanao oral literature; the Library, which served as the storage for exchange publications and copies of research reports, dissertations, theses and important documents and primary materials; and Administration, which supported the above divisions with material supplies and service assistance. It also continued to conduct its own research projects with OVCRE approval. These functions continue to the present day.

Through the efforts of Dr. Mamitua Saber, the founder and dean of the IFRC and URC, the Center had embarked on productive research and regular publications since 1974. To this day it continues to publish the *Mindanao Journal*, the University's multi-disciplinary periodical since 1974; the *Mindanao Art & Culture*, largely the productions of the Folklore Division, since 1979; and other scholarly papers, like the *MSU Professional Papers* series. In its most well-funded years in the 1980's, it also published various College periodicals, like the *Arts and Sciences Journal*, the *Journal of Fisheries & Aquaculture* and the *Development Administration Journal*, as well as numerous independently titled books by single authors from the Philippines and abroad. These internationally-distributed publications helped make a name for Mindanao State University and placed it on the world map of educational institutions of

higher learning. Until 2004, published in print and after come out on-line only in the

One of URC's outstanding epic of the Maranao, consisting of 21 episodes included), Folklore Division under I Through this collection, the "national treasure." The UN of the oral and intangible her

On January 31, 1992, Dr. the University, he had sat as MSU Board of Regents that its Charter. In honor and more sociologist and founder also Natural Science Museum, the Resolution No. 14, series of I to Mamitua Saber Research C

In 2000, the MSRC built equipment and priceless Mindanao that covered the I had been painstakingly acc Center's existence. Many of Also lost were more than 300 MSU since its founding in 1 and classical books; folklori the Darangen and other M books and periodicals and c and other manuscripts.

Also, MSRC had no of 2003, when Dr. Federico V after Dr. Saber, left MSU, a the Center continued to do w and reconstruction, despite f University rebuilt the old I MSRC office. In 2006, thrc Saber Macarambon and the Project the construction of "Technology Center" building the Administration Building, new address the MSRC is n Dr. Carmelita G. Hansel took